## AREA OF FOCUS #8

# Diseases of the Prostate

Benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) and chronic prostatitis are the two most common non-malignant diseases of the prostate. Their prevalence far exceeds that of prostate cancer. They affect adults of all ages and account for the major health care costs in diagnosis and treatment of prostate diseases. They very commonly are present in patients with prostate cancer.

They occur at an earlier age than prostate cancer; their causal relationship to the development of prostate cancer is not known.

Although the available data show that prostate cancer has a higher prevalence in African Americans, the racial disparities for these non-malignant diseases have never been accurately assessed. However, it is assumed that they follow a pattern similar to that of prostate cancer.

In addition to racial disparities in disease prevalence, the disparities in types of therapy, effectiveness of therapy, and effectiveness of screening programs has never been studied or evaluated.

## **Research Goal 1**

To improve the treatment of BPH and chronic prostatitis and to reduce the racial disparity

## **Current Activities**

The current NIDDK portfolio includes two clinical trials, the Medical Treatment of Prostatic Symptoms (MTOPS), which has minority enrollment of 18 percent, and Innovative Therapeutic Approaches in Patients With Chronic Prostatitis, with minority enrollment in the cohort of about 3 percent. A prostate biopsy tissue bank has been established for the BPH study. Four George M. O'Brien research centers focus on basic research aspects of prostate disease including prostate cancer. Individual basic research grants are diverse and range from androgen and hormonal regulation of prostate growth, susceptibility alleles for BPH, molecular epidemiology of androgen gene expression in the prostate, growth factors, and neuroendocrine factors in prostate growth regulation. Approximately \$23 million was spent on research on prostate diseases in FY 1999.

#### **Potential New Initiative**

Expand the current study cohort of patients with chronic prostatitis to include more racial/ethnic minorities. Support a clinical study identifying minority patients with prostate disease, with a component of therapeutic interventions, and a multicenter genetic epidemiology study focusing on risk factors for prostate disease in minorities.



### **Expected Outcome**

These studies will answer the following three basic questions that address the disparity in prostate diseases in minorities:

- 1. Is a minority male with either BPH or prostatitis more likely to develop concomitant prostate cancer than a white male?
- 2. Is the prostate disease of minority males at a more advanced stage when diagnosed than that of white males?
- 3. Are there differences in treatment and treatment outcomes for minority males, and are there specific risk factors for disease development and progression in minority males?

#### **Action Plan**

The mechanisms for funding will include R01s and U01s.

## **Public Information and Outreach Goal**

To increase awareness about prostate enlargement and chronic prostatitis in African-American and Hispanic/Latino-American audiences

## **Current Activities**

Under NIDDK's direction, the National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse produces and disseminates relevant materials, including Prostate Enlargement: Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia; Prostatitis: Disorders of the Prostate; and the executive summary of a scientific workshop on prostatitis. Under development is an easy-to-read booklet on prostate problems.

## **Potential New Initiative**

Establish a coordinated information program to reach African-American and Hispanic/Latino-American audiences.

#### **Action Plan**

Work with public and private partners representing African Americans and Hispanic/Latino Americans to identify additional information needs of patients, families, and physicians and plan and develop culturally sensitive messages and materials.